

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Precious Metals Recovery Program?

A: The PMRP is a program that promotes the economic recovery of precious metals from excess and surplus precious metal-bearing materials, and also the reutilization of recovered fine precious metal for authorized internal purposes or as GFM. The program encompasses silver, gold, and the platinum family. The platinum family includes platinum, palladium, iridium, rhodium, osmium, and ruthenium.

Q: Why participate in the PMRP?

A: The PMRP guidance is identified in the Federal Property Management Regulations, 41.101-45.10, as well as the Department of Defense Regulation (DoD 4140-1-R) and Manual (DoD 4160.21-M). By the policy described in the above guidance, all DoD components generating precious metal bearing material, or requiring precious metals, **will** participate in the PMRP. Other Federal Civil Agencies (FCAs) generating precious metals may participate in the program in accordance with the agreements in effect between DLA and the individual FCA.

Q: What are the sources of Precious Metals?

A: Some of the areas that precious metals can be found are:

Gold is found in electronic circuit boards (relays, transistors, diodes, and contact points), pins, along with uniform emblems, badges, insignias, anodes, turnings, buttons and eyeglass frames, powders, salts, foil, leaf, dental lingual bars and wire, gold ware, and brazing alloys.

Silver is found in silver cell batteries, tableware, film, buttons, desalter kits, insignias, anodes, welding and brazing wire, radar antennas, electronics-relay contact points, missile and electronic parts, turnings, and spent photographic fixing solutions.

Platinum family metals are found in aircraft spark plugs, magneto and relay contact points, detonator fuses, electronics-diodes and parts, anodes, cathodes, crucibles, foil, resistor furnace coil, thermocouple wires, solenoid switches, voltage regulators, jewelry, laboratory ware and wire.

Q: Why recycle the precious metals from excess and/or surplus materials/scrap?

A: Participation in the program saves money for the taxpayers and the government (DoD/FCAs) by recycling and reutilizing precious metals at a reduced cost to the Government, conserves natural resources by recycling and reusing precious metals, reduces environmental impact of having to mine for precious metals.

Q: How does the DoD PMRP Operate?

A: The program is a continuous life cycle. It can start at any point, but for the purpose of explanation, we will start with the Item Manager (IM) located at the Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) who issues to the military services (DoD) or FCAs precious metals as Government Furnished Material (GFM) and at a cost lower than the market value of the metals. In turn these metals are utilized by government contractors to manufacture items for use by the DoD/FCAs, (such as aircraft nose cones or stator vanes for aircraft's or

photographic films for use in the military radiology departments and hospitals). When these items are used, expired, or are considered excess or surplus to the user, they are turned into the local Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office who accumulates the precious metals bearing material/scrap for placement on a recovery contract. The refined metals, such as silver (from the film) and gold, silver and platinum family metals (from electronics) are then deposited by the contractor into the IM account at DSCP for reissue to the DoD/FCAs. Hence, the life cycle or recycling of the precious metals continues. (See the Precious Metals Life Cycle)

Q: What is the DRMS involvement in the DoD PMRP?

A: DRMS is involved in providing the day-to-day program guidance and for administering the receipt, storage, processing, shipment, and refining of precious metals bearing material/scrap. DRMS is also involved in purchasing and issuing equipment and supplies when economically feasible and justified, for the recovery of silver from photographic solutions.

Q: Benefits of the PMRP to DoD, the Government, and the taxpayer.

A: The DoD PMRP has returned more than \$400 million dollars in market value to the Government in the last 30 years. The program has cost the Government \$166 million with a benefit to the Government (DoD/OFAs), and you the taxpayer of \$234 million.

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